

Pinellas County

*315 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756*



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

9:30 AM

BCC Assembly Room

Board of County Commissioners

Karen Williams Seel, Chair

Pat Gerard, Vice-Chair

Dave Eggers

Charlie Justice

Janet C. Long

Kathleen Peters

Kenneth T. Welch

ROLL CALL - 9:30 A.M.

Present: 7 - Chair Karen Williams Seel, Vice-Chair Pat Gerard, Dave Eggers, Charlie Justice, Janet C. Long, Kathleen Peters, and Kenneth T. Welch

Others Present: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator; Jewel White, County Attorney; Claretha N. Harris, Chief Deputy Clerk; and Jerry Gottlick, Board Reporter

INVOCATION by Reverend Becky Robbins-Penniman, Church of the Good Shepherd, Dunedin.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

1. National Volunteer Week Proclamation:
 - Animal Services
 - Rusty Walker, Site Coordinator
 - Emergency Management
 - Thomas Powers, Volunteer
 - David Rockwell, Volunteer
 - Clayton Parrott, Site Coordinator
 - Heritage Village
 - Judy Dailey, Volunteer
 - Sue Schneck, Site Coordinator
 - Parks and Conservation Resources
 - Betty Nolan, Volunteer
 - Don Nolan, Volunteer
 - Chris Muhrlin, Site Coordinator
 - Human Resources
 - Irena Karolak, Volunteer Services (VS) Representative
 - Cantrece Harmon, VS Representative

Chair Seel read a proclamation encouraging volunteerism, noting the benefits provided to the community and recognizing April 7 to 13, 2019, as National Volunteer Week. The volunteers and coordinators introduced themselves; whereupon, Chair Seel presented Mses. Dailey and Powers and Messrs. Nolan, Powers, and Rockwell with Lifetime Achievement Awards for their contributions of 4,000 volunteer hours or more.

2. Water Conservation Month Proclamation:
 - Jeremy King, Utilities
 - Kevin Tenk, Utilities

Chair Seel read a proclamation recognizing April 2019 as Water Conservation Month, and Mr. King provided input, urging everyone to comply with local conservation laws and rules.

3. Community Water Wise Awards:

- Brian Niemann, Florida-Friendly Landscaping Agent, UF/IFAS Extension

Chair Seel provided background information on the award, which recognizes residents for their efforts in outdoor water conservation; whereupon, Mr. Niemann presented garden stepping stones to the winners: Eoin O'Leary and David Gruenewald (Single Family Residential category), and volunteers at the Wall Springs Park Butterfly Garden (Community Garden category).

4. Doing Things! Employee Recognition Award:

- Bobby Burke, Utilities Maintenance Specialist 4, Utilities

Chair Seel presented Mr. Burke with the award and introduced a video highlighting the services he provides; whereupon, she and Mr. Burton thanked him for his contributions to the County since 2003.

5. Partner Presentation:

2018 Annual Audit

- Clareth Harris, Chief Deputy Director, Finance Division, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
- John Weber, Partner, Crowe LLP

Chair Seel acknowledged the upcoming retirement of Ms. Harris and that it will be her last official presentation of the annual audit report; whereupon, Ms. Harris made brief remarks and introduced Mr. Weber.

Mr. Weber discussed the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) prepared by the Clerk's Finance Division and conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *Audit Results Pinellas County Fiscal Year 2018*. He provided highlights of the audit report and an overview of the financial statements, noting that the report presents an unmodified, or clean, opinion; and that no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal controls were found; whereupon, he discussed new pronouncements issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and how they might affect the County's future financial statements, and compared the County's data to the most recent available results from other Florida counties.

Mr. Weber reported that the County is required to record its future pension and "other post-employment benefits," such as health care costs, as liabilities, and responding to queries by Commissioners Long and Welch, related that the reported amount is not unusual compared to similar-size governments; that most governments do not actually fund the liabilities, but incur the costs on a yearly basis; that the benefits are largely controlled by state requirements; and that it is strictly a reporting issue.

Commissioner Welch thanked Ms. Harris for her service to the County; whereupon, she acknowledged the work of Finance Division staff, the Constitutional Officers, and everyone involved in the audit, and introduced Finance Division Director Jeanette Phillips.

Responding to query by Commissioner Welch, Ms. Harris confirmed that the CAFR and other related financial reports, including a *Citizens' Guide to County Finances*, are available on the Clerk's website.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

All public hearing items have been properly advertised. Affidavits of Publication have been received and are on file in the Board Records Department.

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

Countywide Planning Authority

6. Case No. CW 19-04 - City of Largo
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Resort and Recreation/Open Space to Resort, regarding 3.8 acre more or less, located at 1300 Cove Cay Drive.

Ordinance No. 19-07 adopted approving Case No. CW 19-04. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, recommended approval of the proposal, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Gerard, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Welch

7. Case No. CW 19-05 - Pinellas County
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Residential Low Medium to Retail and Services, regarding 0.4 acre more or less, located at 1408 North Betty Lane, Clearwater.

Ordinance No. 19-08 adopted approving Case No. CW 19-05. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, recommended approval of the proposal, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eggers, seconded by Vice-Chair Gerard, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Welch

8. Case No. CW 19-06 - City of St. Pete Beach
Countywide Plan Map amendment from Public/Semi-Public to Residential Medium, regarding 0.3 acre more or less, located at 3101 Pass-A-Grill Way, St. Pete Beach.

Ordinance No. 19-09 adopted approving Case No. CW 19-06. Forward Pinellas, in its role as the Pinellas Planning Council, recommended approval of the proposal, and staff concurred. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Gerard, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Welch

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

9. Petition of the Estate of Roger Labelle by Lisa A. Baith and Sharon Zomerfeld to vacate that portion of 15-foot right-of-way lying south of Lot 12 (2352 Keystone Road), Tampa & Tarpon Springs Land Co., Plat Book H1, Page 116, lying in Section 8-27-16, Pinellas County, Florida. (Legislative Hearing)

Resolution No. 19-15 adopted granting the petition. Clerk authorized to attest and to record the resolution. Letters of no objection have been received from all appropriate parties. Interested property owners were notified as to the date of the public hearing. Staff recommended that the vacation be granted. No correspondence has been received. No citizens appeared to be heard.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Welch

CONSENT AGENDA - Items 10 through 29 (Items 22 and 25 addressed under Regular Agenda)

A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Long, that the Consent Agenda items be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Welch

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

10. Minutes of the regular meeting held February 26, 2019.
11. Vouchers and bills paid from February 10 through March 9, 2019.

Period: February 10 through February 16, 2019

Accounts Payable - \$12,218,044.84

Payroll - None

Period: February 17 through February 23, 2019

Accounts Payable - \$13,546,841.40

Payroll - \$3,655,747.92

Period: February 24 through March 2, 2019

Accounts Payable - \$31,628,366.55

Payroll - None

Period: March 3 through March 9, 2019

Accounts Payable - \$57,209,398.99

Payroll - \$3,656,993.54

Reports received for filing:

12. Dock Fee Report for the month of March 2019.
13. Quarterly Report of Routine Dock and Dredge/Fill Applications Received from January 1 to March 31, 2019.
14. Annual Investment Report and Quarterly Investment Report for the period ended September 30, 2018.
15. Tampa Bay Water Annual Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2018.
16. City of Belleair Beach Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year (FY) ended September 30, 2018.
17. Palm Harbor Community Services Agency, Inc. Financial Statements and Supplementary Information for Fiscal Years ended September 30, 2018 and 2017.

Miscellaneous items received for filing:

18. City of Clearwater Ordinances Nos. 9211-19, 9214-19, 9218-19, and 9221-19 adopted February 7, 2019, annexing certain properties.
19. Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement for the Towns of Belleair, Indian Shores, and Kenneth City, and the Cities of Gulfport, Indian Rocks Beach, Largo, Madeira Beach, Safety Harbor, Seminole, and Treasure Island for the purpose of providing insurance through Public Risk Management of Florida Health Trust, together with Affidavit of Authenticity.
20. Eastlake Oaks Community Development District minutes of the meeting held December 13, 2018.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Management and Budget

21. Resolution supplementing the FY19 General Fund Budget for unanticipated revenue to the Human Services and Public Works Departments.

Resolution No. 19-16 adopted recognizing and appropriating funds regarding seven grant awards to the Human Services Department and one grant award to the Public Works Department. The Resolution provides for the receipt of \$8,153,810.00 in unanticipated grant revenue and increases the Fiscal Year 2019 General Fund operating budget by the same amount.

Public Works

23. Award of bid to M.T.M. Contractors, Inc. for the Haines Road Phase II - 60th Avenue North to U.S. Highway 19 project.

Bid No. 189-0118-CP (PID No. 002106A) in the amount of \$4,897,753.35 awarded on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications. All work is expected to be completed within 730 consecutive calendar days. Chair authorized to sign the agreement and the Clerk to attest.

24. Ranking of firms and agreement with Cumbey and Fair, Inc. for professional engineering services pertaining to the Countywide Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation paving project.

Ranking of firms and Contract No. 178-0525-NC (PID No. 003873A) approved in the amount of \$530,536.50 for a term of 695 consecutive calendar days from the notice to proceed date. Chair authorized to sign the agreement and the Clerk to attest.

26. Ranking of firms and agreement with Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. for professional engineering, planning, and environmental services for the Lake Tarpon and Brooker Creek watershed management plans.

Ranking of firms and Contract No. 178-0160-NC (PID Nos. 003672A and 003688A) approved in the amount of \$1,241,733.00 for a term of 48 consecutive calendar months from the notice to proceed date. Chair authorized to sign the agreement and the Clerk to attest.

Real Estate Management

27. Ranking of firms and agreement with AssetWorks, LLC for purchase, implementation, and maintenance services pertaining to a new fuel dispensing and accounting system.

Ranking of firms and Contract No. 167-0378-P approved in the total not-to-exceed amount of \$729,195.86. Implementation services are to be completed within 32 weeks from the notice to proceed date. Maintenance and support services shall commence upon go-live and continue for a five-year period. Chair authorized to sign the agreement and the Clerk to attest.

Utilities

28. Ranking of firms and agreement with Reiss Engineering, Inc. for professional engineering services pertaining to W.E. Dunn Water Reclamation Facility electrical improvements.

Ranking of firms and Contract No. 189-0014-NC (PID No. 003409A) approved in the amount of \$449,439.95. The design, permitting, bidding, and construction administration phases are expected to be completed within 900 consecutive calendar days. Chair authorized to sign the agreement and the Clerk to attest.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

29. Notice of new lawsuit and defense of the same by the County Attorney in the case of Michael Hinman v. Pinellas County; Circuit Civil Case No. 18-006941-CI-20 - allegations of negligence resulting in personal injuries.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Public Works

22. Award of bid to All American Concrete, Inc. for the Duke Energy Florida Trail Extension Phase II project.

Bid No. 189-0128-CP (PID No. 000186B) in the amount of \$2,222,060.20 awarded on the basis of being the lowest responsive, responsible bid received meeting specifications. All work is expected to be completed within 270 consecutive calendar days. Chair authorized to sign the agreement and the Clerk to attest.

Responding to query by Commissioner Eggers, Transportation Division Director Ken Jacobs referred to a map, discussed the location of various segments of the trail project, and confirmed that the current segment is one of the final ones planned; whereupon, Chair Seel requested that staff communicate with residents in the Coachman Ridge neighborhood regarding the trail's exact route.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Justice, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Welch

25. Ranking of firms and agreement with Kimley-Horne and Associates, Inc. for professional engineering services pertaining to the Lealman Regional Stormwater Facility.

Ranking of firms and Contract No. 178-0331-NC (PID No. 003001C) approved in the amount of \$400,000.00 for a term of 720 consecutive calendar days from the notice to proceed date. Chair authorized to sign the agreement and the Clerk to attest.

Commissioner Justice clarified that the project is an engineering study to determine the location of regional stormwater management opportunities; and that the study area includes the entire Lealman Community Redevelopment Area, and Mr. Burton provided input.

A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Eggers, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Welch

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DEPARTMENTS

Convention and Visitors Bureau

30. Capital Projects Funding Program application received from the Salvador Dali Museum, Inc. in accordance with the Capital Projects Funding Program Guidelines for Category D projects.

Application for funding in the amount of \$17.5 million net present value approved for processing under the program guidelines.

Responding to queries by the members, Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater Chief Operating Officer Tim Ramsberger related that the application is before the Board for preliminary review because the request is in excess of \$10 million, a requirement of the new program guidelines; and that if approved, it will move on to the Tourist Development Council (TDC) to begin the review process along with three other funding applications for a total of \$22 million, in addition to the previous City of Clearwater/Phillies request. He indicated that the final payment to the Dali Museum for the previously approved application will be distributed in 2020.

Commissioner Welch inquired as to the timing of discussions regarding transportation, infrastructure, and other potential uses for the Tourist Development Tax, and Chair Seel related that the matter has been delayed pending receipt of further information; that the Commission will meet to discuss the needs and availability of funds; that the findings will be forwarded to the TDC, and a joint workshop will be scheduled; and that a robust discussion will take place before any money is allocated.

Discussion ensued regarding potential funding for a Rays stadium and a County sports complex, and state requirements with regard to the use of Tourist Development Tax revenue. Attorney White related that expanding the allowable bed tax uses would require modification of the Tourist Development Plan, and Managing Assistant County Attorney Michael Zas provided input, clarifying that capital projects would need to generate tourism, rather than address needs resulting from increased tourism; and that a study would need to be conducted for each proposed project to prove that it meets the nexus.

Attorney White noted that the Legislature is currently meeting in Tallahassee, and stark limitations could be imposed on the use of funds directly related to projects discussed today, including baseball stadiums.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long, seconded by Vice-Chair Gerard, that the application be approved for processing. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Welch

Human Services

31. Service Area Competition grant award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources Services Administration for the Health Care for the Homeless program.

Grant award approved for a three-year project period from March 1, 2019 through February 28, 2022, providing funding in the amount of \$1,456,815.00.00 for the first budget year. County Administrator delegated authority for adjustments and supplemental awards during the period of March 1, 2019 through February 28, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Justice, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Welch

Public Works

32. Resolution dedicating a portion of County-owned property on Pine Street, Campbell Lane, 128th Avenue North, 126th Way North, and 125th Street as public right-of-way for the Dansville area.

Resolution No. 19-17 adopted dedicating the property as part of a community development project (County PID No. 003855A). Clerk authorized to record.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Commissioner Peters, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Welch

33. Interlocal Agreement with the City of Tarpon Springs for the planning, engineering, and designing phase of the Anclote River dredging project.

Agreement approved providing funding in an amount up to \$300,000.00 to the City on a reimbursement basis, effective through September 30, 2020. Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

Mr. Burton related that the City is in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers on the project. Chair Seel noted the history associated with the item and requested that a work session be held for further discussion, cautioning that it could open up the door for future requests, and Commissioners Eggers and Long provided input.

A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Vice-Chair Gerard, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Welch

34. Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey - Department of Interior for the Water Discipline Data Collection program.

Agreement approved for the period of May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020 (total project cost, \$262,500.00; Pinellas County contribution, \$205,074.00; USGS contribution, \$57,426.00). Chairman authorized to sign and the Clerk to attest.

Responding to the Chair's call for person's wishing to be heard, David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor, presented his comments and concerns.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Gerard, seconded by Commissioner Welch, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Long

Utilities

35. Change Order No.1 with KAT Construction & Materials, Inc. for the McKay Creek Reclaimed Water Pump Station valve improvement project.

(Contract No. 178-0386-CP; PID No. 003207A) Change Order approved increasing the contract amount by \$156,583.75 for a revised total of \$1,301,540.39 and extending the term by 60 consecutive calendar days.

A motion was made by Commissioner Justice, seconded by Commissioner Welch, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Welch

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Long

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

36. County Administrator Miscellaneous.

Mr. Burton announced the promotion of County Planner Chris Moore to Assistant to the County Administrator to focus on the unincorporated Lealman community, and related that an additional part-time position will be advertised internally to focus on north county.

Mr. Burton announced the appointment of Gay Lancaster as permanent Director of the Contractor Licensing Department, and related that a pilot program focused on integrating inspection services provided by the Construction Licensing, Building, and Code Enforcement Departments is being implemented. Responding to query by Commissioner Welch, Mr. Burton indicated that the Licensing Department has been added to the timeline for implementation of the Accela software; and that additional resources have been allocated to assist in updating the department processes.

Mr. Burton announced that Jennifer Bramley, City Manager of Dunedin, has agreed to co-chair a task force with him to develop a model program regarding the use of certain herbicides and pesticides on public lands. Discussion ensued, and Commissioner Eggers opined that a countywide initiative on the issue would be well received. In response to queries by Commissioner Welch, Mr. Burton discussed the group's timeline, expected outcomes, and topics to be considered, noting that input will be sought from various technical experts.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

- 37.** Proposed settlement in the case of David Wall v. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office/Pinellas County Risk Management; Workers' Compensation Case No. 18-024840SLR.

Settlement approved in accordance with the confidential memorandum dated April 9, 2019.

A motion was made by Commissioner Welch, seconded by Vice-Chair Gerard, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Welch

- 38.** Proposed settlement in the case of Michael Hinman v. Pinellas County; Circuit Court Case No. 18-006941-CI.

Settlement approved in accordance with the confidential memorandum dated April 9, 2019.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Gerard, seconded by Commissioner Welch, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Welch

- 39.** County Attorney Miscellaneous.

Attorney White introduced new Assistant County Attorney Diriki Geuka, relating that he is a graduate of Florida A&M University and Stetson Law School.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

40. County Administrator Reports:
- North Pinellas Trail Loop Update
 - 2019 Citizens Value Survey

North Pinellas Trail Loop Update

Transportation Division Director Ken Jacobs provided a history and timeline of the project. Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, he discussed the funding process, public outreach and input, conflict points, the proposed route, suggested route alternatives, logistics of the contract, and next steps.

Responding to queries and comments by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Jacobs provided detailed information regarding public meetings and specific citizen concerns, safety factors, and pedestrian overpasses.

Upon the Chair's call for citizens wishing to be heard, Jerry Krantz, Bruce Rumble, and Scott Bressler, Clearwater, expressed the following concerns:

- Safety
- Public view versus secluded route
- Citizen engagement prior to Board approval
- Input from law enforcement and first responders
- Reduced property values
- Potential crime
- Alternate route proposal following McMullen Booth Road

Commissioner Eggers noted that he had previously met with Mr. Bressler; and that monetary and safety issues should be reviewed from a broad perspective. Commissioner Welch reiterated that safety is a priority; and that lengthy discussion with the community has taken place through the years. He noted the successful impact of cameras in other areas of the trail, and the need to consider specific issues.

Chair Seel requested that the summation and executive summary from a 2008 study be sent to the Board for review, and Commissioner Long opined that due to development, the dynamics have changed since that study, and noted the success of Vision Zero in Hillsborough County pertaining to bicyclist and pedestrian safety.

Thereupon, Commissioner Seel stated that the item will be put on a work session agenda and reviewed with past and present information available; that the meeting date will be publicized; and that she will be happy to discuss further citizen concerns via telephone.

2019 Citizens Value Survey

Aubrey Philips, Office of Management and Budget, conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled *Pinellas County Citizen Research* and provided a high level overview of the survey findings, noting that trust in the County was at 97 percent, significantly above the national average of 72 percent. She introduced Marketing and Communications Director Barbra Hernandez, who discussed public outreach pertaining to the survey results, including strategic communications connecting survey results to County projects and initiatives, and enhanced relationships with media partners.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

41. Public Comment.

Stacey Tatum, Seminole, re St. Petersburg College student
Connor LaPorta, St. Pete Beach, re animal abuser registry
David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor, re "Letter of Marque" - Invasion!

COUNTY COMMISSION

42. County Commission New Business Items:
- MSTU Funding Requests (Commissioner Eggers)

Commissioner Eggers presented the following Municipal Services Taxing Unit funding requests, as submitted by Palm Harbor Community Services Agency, Inc.

- CSA Palm Harbor - \$19,400 for acoustical wall and ceiling panels
- East Lake Community Library - \$20,000 for carpeting
- East Lake Recreation - \$20,000 for shade structures and bleachers
- Palm Harbor Library - \$20,000 for a library vehicle

In response to query by Commissioner Welch, Chair Seel related that the total available MSTU fund balance is \$435,402.37.

A motion was made by Commissioner Eggers, seconded by Commissioner Justice, that the item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Seel, Vice-Chair Gerard, Commissioner Eggers, Commissioner Justice, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Peters, and Commissioner Welch

43. County Commission Board Reports and Miscellaneous.

The members reported on the activities of their assigned Boards and Committees, and related or discussed the following items:

Commissioner Welch

- Attended the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Legislative Days. Highlighted the various bills discussed and extended well wishes to FAC Director of Public Policy Davin Suggs, who is dealing with health challenges.
- Joined fellow Commissioners in attending the Faith & Action for Strength Together event on April 8, where they celebrated the County's commitment to providing affordable housing. Thanked FAST for their partnership.

Commissioner Peters

- Toured mental health facilities in Miami with staff, and has upcoming tours scheduled in Sarasota and Orlando. Discussed wellness and mental health facilities she visited while vacationing in Bermuda.
- Attended the FAC Legislative Days and met with various legislators and government officials; discussed matters regarding fentanyl in Pinellas County, inlet management, and other water quality issues.
- Attended an Early Learning Coalition meeting where they discussed fundraising and sustainability options.

Commissioner Justice

- Discussed recent and upcoming activities of the Historic Preservation Board, Area Agency on Aging, Homeless Leadership Board, and Storm Water Waste Water Task Force.
- The Gulf Consortium met as part of FAC week, where a vote approved \$1.2 million in BP environmental impact funds to be expended for the Lake Seminole project.
- Attended several local events over the past few weeks.

Commissioner Gerard

- Announced that CareerSource has made a decision to enter negotiations with the City of St. Petersburg for the Science Center.
- Discussed recent and upcoming activities of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority Board and Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). Chair Seel related that a volunteer is needed to replace Commissioner Gerard on the Committee in May, and Commissioner Gerard provided information regarding the meeting schedule and process.

- Attended the Workforce Board Conference in Washington D.C. Discussion topics included the *gig economy* and generational workforce challenges.
- Toured St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport with Congressman Crist.
- Announced a Farm Share event to be held on April 12.

Commissioner Eggers

- Discussed recent and upcoming activities of the Forward Pinellas and Tampa Bay Water Boards and the Transportation Management Area Leadership Group.
- Reported that the Community Veteran Engagement Board and Purple Heart Community are supportive of the process and location of the Purple Heart Monument.
- Related that he has been appointed to the Florida Healthy Kids Board, which deals with mid- to low-cost insurance for Florida children.
- Met with Ann Vanek regarding the Solar and Energy Loan Fund (SELF) program.
- Remarked that he will be participating in the Elisa's Greatest Wishes 5k run on April 12; and that the School Board voted to rename her Palm Harbor elementary school Elisa Nelson Elementary.

Commissioner Long

- Discussed recent activities and meetings in Tallahassee.
- Provided updates related to the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) appropriation, amendments, and budget.
- Announced that PSTA is rebranding the acronym BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) to RTS (Rapid Transit Service).
- Will attend the St. Pete Beach City Council meeting this evening with PSTA CEO Brad Miller to address transparency issues regarding a federal funding application.
- Commended the work of Environmental Management Division Director Kelli Hammer Levy and her development of a new tool that is receiving national recognition.
- Requested that an update on the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program be provided at a future meeting.
- Vocalized concerns regarding restrictions related to conversations pertaining to a local golf course.

Chair Seel

Announced that the Juvenile Welfare Board Executive Director Selection Committee will be meeting April 11 after the regular Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT - 12:49 P.M.

Karen Seel
Chair

ATTEST: KEN BURKE, CLERK

By Norman D. Long
Deputy Clerk

